

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2771

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 ALGIERS 1641

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, AG, US

SUBJ: ROBINSON'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
ENERGY ABDESSELAM: RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE

FOLLOWING IS FULL REPORT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN UNDER
SECRETARY ROBINSON AND MINISTER ABDESSELAM JULY 21 ON
RESUMPTION DIALOGUE.

1. AFTER APPROPRIATE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY ABDESSELAM,
ROBINSON SAID REASON FOR HIS VISIT WAS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. THERE NO NEED FOR REAL DIALOGUE IF
EVERYONE IN AGREEMENT. DIFFERING IDEAS LED TO PROGRESS.
WE FAILED TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT IN PARIS IN APRIL BUT WE
BELIEVED THAT IN HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE THAT CONFERENCE WILL
BE VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. WE ACHIEVED TWO
OBJECTIVES THERE: 1) WE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE GROUP OF TEN AND WITH THEIR IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES;
AND 2) ALL PARTICIPANTS GAINED A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE
PROBLEMS WE FACE IN BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIP AMONG DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FROM US POINT OF VIEW, WE HAVE MADE
PROGRESS SINCE CONFERENCE ON TWO POINTS:

1) US HAS RECONSIDERED KEY ISSUE OF COMMODITIES AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRY RELATIONS WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A MODIFICATION IN OUR
POSITION. THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AND AFFIRMED BY
SECRETARY KISSINGER PUBLICLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY.
WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR IDEAS AND ANTICIPATE AN EVEN
CLEARER STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF OUR POSITION AT THE UN

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SPECIAL SESSION IN SEPTEMBER. 2) ON ANOTHER FRONT, WE HAVE

ARRIVED AT BASIS OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOR RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE. ROBINSON HAD SPENT MUCH TIME IN PAST TWO MONTHS TALKING TO OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP OF TEN FROM APRIL PARIS CONFERENCE. THERE LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON WAY TO RECONVENE CONFERENCE. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT ALGIERS WAS TO SHARE THESE IDEAS AND TO SEARCH FOR COMMON AGREEMENT FOR RECOMMENCEMENT. WE BELIEVED THIS COULD BE DONE IN FIVE BASIC STEPS:

A. OBTAIN THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT REFERRED TO CONCERNING CONFERENCE AND ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY ITS RECONVENING IN PARIS. FRENCH WILL ISSUE THE INVITATIONS.

B. THE ACTUAL RECONVENING OF THE GROUP OF TEN IN PARIS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER. WE BELIEVE THIS WAS EARLIEST PRACTICAL DATE. GROUP WILL AGREE ON SUBSEQUENT STEPS AND THE BASIS ON WHICH SEVENTEEN ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS CAN BE SELECTED. THIS WOULD MEAN TOTAL OF 27 AT THE SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE. WE WOULD FOLLOW SAME PROPORTION TENTATIVELY AGREED BY PREPCON IN APRIL. THAT IS, EIGHT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND 19 FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, OF WHICH EIGHT WOULD BE FROM OPEC. THE GROUP OF TEN WOULD NOT THEMSELVES SELECT THE ADDITIONAL 17 BUT ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR DOING SO.

C. CONVENING MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 27 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE GROUP OF TEN. TO SELECT ADDITIONAL 17 AND TO ISSUE INVITATIONS AND MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD TAKE 30 TO 60 DAYS. THE GROUP OF 27 THUS COULD MEET AT END OF NOVEMBER OR BEGINNING OF DECEMBER.

D. AT THE GROUP OF 27 CONFERENCE, THREE EQUAL COMMISSIONS WOULD BE LAUNCHED DEALING WITH ENERGY, OTHER RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT. MEMBERS OF THESE COMMISSIONS WOULD BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE 27, BUT WITH A MAXIMUM LIMIT OF 15 MEMBERS IN EACH COMMISSION. THE SELECTION WOULD BE MADE BY THE DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, FOLLOWING SAME 8 TO 19 PROPORTIONS. GENERAL CRITERIA WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY CONFERENCE OF 27 ON SELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS. CONFERENCE OF 27 WOULD BE HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. CONFERENCE
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OF 10 TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER WOULD BE HELD AT SAME LEVEL AS PREPCON IN APRIL. THREE COMMISSIONS WOULD OPERATE UNDER GENERAL GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY CONFERENCE OF 27, BUT EACH COMMISSION WOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN DETAILED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE. COMMISSIONS WOULD HAVE AN INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG THEMSELVES AS WELL AS WITH OTHER EXISTING FORA, SUCH AS UN.

E. CONFERENCE OF 27 WOULD BE RECONVENED AT MINISTERIAL

LEVEL 12 MONTHS AFTER LAUNCHING OF COMMISSIONS TO ACCEPT AND REVIEW THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS. ONE OR MORE OF THESE COMMISSIONS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AFTER THIS SECOND CONFERENCE OF 27. THIS WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THESE FIVE PARTS OF THE BASIC OUTLINE HAD RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNTRIES ROBINSON HAD VISITED RECENTLY.

2. ABDESSELAM REPLIED THAT BOUMEDIENE'S RECENT LETTER TO SECRETARY HAD ALREADY ANSWERED AND GIVEN ALGERIAN POSITIONS ON MANY OF ITEMS JUST MENTIONED. ABDESSELAM DID NOT CONSIDER APRIL CONFERENCE A FAILURE. ALGERIA THOUGHT IT TO BE A NORMAL CONCLUSION TO SUCH A CONFERENCE. PROBLEMS CONFERENCE FACED WERE IMPORTANT, THE APPROACH WAS NEW AND IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK TO RESOLVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS. IT WAS, HOWEVER, A VERY USEFUL DIALOGUE AND ALGERIANS BELIEVE ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WANT TO RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE. ALGERIA HAS NOTED A CHANGE IN THE US POSITION AND OTHER COUNTRY POSITIONS ON A NUMBER

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OF POINTS. ALGERIA CONSIDERED THAT CONDITIONS NOW EXISTED FOR RECONVENING CONFERENCE. WHILE SMALL DETAILS MUST BE ARRANGED, IT WAS ALSO MOST IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS SOME BASIC ISSUES. DIALOGUE WAS ONLY USEFUL IF IT LEAD TO PROGRESS. ALGERIA CONSIDERED THERE WAS NOW A RAPPROCHEMENT ON SUBSTANCE. WITH REGARD TO SCENARIO, ALGERIANS BELIEVED TIMING ABOUT RIGHT. FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER, HOWEVER, COINCIDED WITH END OF RAMADAN. THIS PERHAPS NOT A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE, BUT END OF FIRST WEEK OR BEGINNING OF THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER WOULD BE BETTER. AS PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAD SAID IN HIS

LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, NUMBER OF 27 WAS ACCEPTABLE. THERE WAS ALSO NO PROBLEM CONCERNING NUMBER OF OPEC STATES PARTICIPATING. PROBLEM MIGHT ARISE, HOWEVER, CONCERNING OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION PARTICIPANTS. IF CRITERIA DECIDED UPON LEAD TO PRE-SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS, THIS WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE. CONSENSUS OF THE CONFERENCE IN APRIL WAS THAT GROUPS WOULD SELECT THEIR OWN PARTICIPANTS-- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BEING OECD--DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM AMONG THE GROUP OF 77. AS SOME COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE, IT WOULD BE EASIER TO GET THESE COUNTRIES TO GIVE UP THEIR SEATS BY CONSENSUS RATHER THAN BE RULED OUT BY A PRE-SELECTION PROCESS BASED ON CRITERIA.

3. ROBINSON REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE ALGERIANS'S POINT OF VIEW AND FELT WE COULD MAKE A CONCESSION TOWARDS THEM.

4. ABDESSELAM AGREED ON NEED TO ELIMINATE SUBJECTIVE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND ON NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO AGREE SO THAT WE CAN
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PROCEED RAPIDLY TOWARDS NEW CONFERENCE. ALGERIA HAD NO PROBLEM WITH AGENDA. THERE WAS A QUESTION, HOWEVER, ON MONETARY PROBLEM. WE SHOULD CONSIDER MONETARY PROBLEM AS INCLUDED IN AGENDA. THERE WERE DIFFERENCES ON THIS POINT IN APRIL. HOWEVER, ALGERIAN UNDERSTANDING FROM AMBASSADOR PARKER WAS THAT US DID NOT EXCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER, BUT THOUGHT IMF BETTER FORUM.

5. ROBINSON AGREED AND SAID YAMANI HAD AGREED THAT ONE OF THREE COMMISSIONS COULD POSSIBLY HAVE A SUB-COMMISSION, IF DESIRED, TO DEAL WITH MONETARY PROBLEMS. ABDESSELAM REPLIED THAT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT MONETARY PROBLEMS BE DISCUSSED BUT THAT EXACT FORMAT COULD BE WORKED OUT LATER. ROBINSON REPLIED THAT THREE COMMISSIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED UPON AND CONFIRMED BY THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. ABDESSELAM AGREED THAT THAT GROUP OF 27 SHOULD BE CONVENED ASAP, AND IT IMPORTANT THIS BE DONE BEFORE END OF 1975. REGARDING FOURTH PHASE, MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM WAS AGENDA AND DESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONS. AS FAR AS ALGERIA CONCERNED, THREE COMMISSIONS WERE SUB-ORGANS OF CONFERENCE. IN THE PROCEDURE DESCRIBED, THERE WAS A DANGER OF DIVIDING CONFERENCE INTO THREE BRANCHES. ALGERIANS EVEN DETECTED A MOVEMENT TOWARDS BREAKING CONFERENCE INTO THREE DIFFERENT CONFERENCES. THUS, FOR CERTAIN SELECTED COUNTRIES, PROBLEM WOULD BE WHAT THEIR POSITION WITHIN THE CONFERENCE WAS. ALGERIA BELIEVED EACH PARTICIPANT WAS INTERESTED IN THE TOTAL CONFERENCE AND SHOULD NOT BE ISOLATED IN SPECIFIC COMMISSIONS. THIS WAS FOR TWO REASONS: 1) EACH COUNTRY WAS CONCERNED BY ALL THE ISSUES, 2) WITHIN CONFERENCE, EACH

COUNTRY REPRESENTED TO CERTAIN EXTENT INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

7. THERE WAS RISK THAT SEPARATING COMMISSIONS WITH ONLY LIAISON OR INFORMATION CHANNELS FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD MIGHT LEAD TO A FROZEN SITUATION WITH ISOLATED COMMISSIONS. THIS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE. ANOTHER OBSERVATION WAS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE PARTICIPANTS IN COMMISSIONS. SOME COUNTRIES OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. WHAT WOULD CRITERIA BE AND HOW WOULD THEY APPLY? APPLICATION OF CRITERIA MIGHT LEAD TO DIFFICULTIES. ALGERIANS WOULD NOT HIDE THE FACT, FOR EXAMPLE, SECRET

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THAT ALGERIA HAS A PROBLEM WITH THIS. WHICH COMMISSION WILL ALGERIA PARTICIPATE IN? CRITERIA OF PRODUCTION, OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPORTS IN THE FORMATION OF GNP MIGHT LEAD TO A SITUATION WHERE ALGERIA WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE ENERGY COMMISSION.

8. ALGERIA HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALSO THE COMPETENCE OF THE COMMISSIONS. WAS TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO BE DISCUSSED IN DEVELOPMENT OR ENERGY COMMISSION? THUS, WE MUST STUDY PROBLEMS THAT COMMISSIONS WILL DISCUSS AND THEN DECIDE HOW TO ALLOCATE THEIR WORK. WORK OF EACH COMMISSION COULD BE OF INTEREST TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. AS FOR ALGERIA, PROBLEMS CONCERNING OIL, GAS AND URANIUM WERE OF GREAT INTEREST. IN DEVELOPMENT FIELD, ALGERIA WAS INTERESTED IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, STABILITY OF MONETARY SYSTEM AND CREDIT PROBLEMS. ALSO TRANSFER OF RESOURCES TO COUNTRIES LACKING THEM. HE MENTIONED THESE TO ILLUSTRATE ALGERIAN CONCERN AS WELL AS THE CONCERN OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS IS WHY GOA FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DECIDE THESE ISSUES IN ADVANCE.

9. THERE WAS ALSO PROBLEM CONCERNING LAST PHASE. CONFERENCE WOULD BE A GREAT NEGOTIATION IN TWO PARTS AND WE MUST CONSIDER ITS GLOBAL CHARACTER. WHEN 27 MEET, ESTABLISH COMMISSIONS, AND THEN SEPARATE TO MEET ONE YEAR LATER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE SECOND SESSION? WILL SECOND SESSION BE ONLY TO REVIEW THE WORK OF COMMISSIONS? IN THIS CASE, WE WILL HAVE NOT ONE CONFERENCE OF 27 BUT THREE PARALLEL CONFERENCES. GOA CONCERN IS THAT THROUGH THE CRITERIA DISCUSSED EARLIER, WE

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WILL ARRIVE AT NEGOTIATING ONLY ON ENERGY, AS ENVISAGED BY PROMOTERS OF WASHINGTON AND PARIS ENERGY CONFERENCES. THE ONLY NOVELTY WOULD BE THE ADDITION OF TWO NEW COMMISSIONS. THERE WOULD BE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN COMMISSIONS AND WE RISKED HAVING A SECOND SESSION OF 27 ONLY TO RECORD WORK OF THREE COMMISSIONS. IF CONFERENCE OF 27 MEETS TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS AND NOT JUST TO TAKE NOTE OF WORK OF COMMISSIONS, THEN 12 MONTHS IS TOO LONG BETWEEN TWO SESSION/. QUESTION WAS, THUS, ARE COMMISSIONS ORGANS OF THE CONFERENCE WITH THE CONFERENCE REMAINING THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION? OR, WILL CONFERENCE BE BROKEN INTO THREE PARTS? IF GROUP OF 27 RETAINS ITS ORIGINAL MEANING, MEETINGS SHOULD BE MORE FREQUENT. GOA WONDERS WHETHER OUR PROGRESS HERE IS REAL OR WHETHER GROUP OF 10 WILL MEET IN PARIS AND FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH MISUNDERSTANDING.

10. ANOTHER OBSERVATION-THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD INQUIRED CONCERNING AGREEMENT FOR A DATE OF MEETING. ABDESSELAM HAD SAID GOA READY AT ANY TIME, BUT WONDERING ABOUT RATIONALE OF RESUMPTION. WAS IT TO RENEW DIALOGUE WITH REAL AGREEMENT IN VIEW, OR ONLY TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLITICAL FACTOR WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROSPECT OF THE UN SPECIAL SESSION OR THE SEPTEMBER OPEC MEETING IN VIEW? SOME SAID THAT AT NEXT OPEC MEETING WE WILL TALK ABOUT OIL PRICE INCREASE AND SOME MIGHT WISH TO BLOCK THAT WITH EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE CONFERENCE. IF PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS PROGRESS, SHOULD WE WAIT 12 MONTHS TO DO ANYTHING? GOA CONSIDERED CONFERENCE OF 27 AS VERY IMPORTANT, A TURNING POINT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

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WHETHER ITS RESULTS WERE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE, GOA DID NOT WANT CONFERENCE TO BECOME A TACTIC OF SHORT-TERM POLICY.

11. ROBINSON REPLIED THAT WE CONSIDERED RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE CONCERNING THREE AREAS-ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT AS BASIC AND FUNDAMENTAL IN THEMSELVES. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MOVE FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESUME DIALOGUE. CONCERNING OIL PRICES, IN APRIL US DID NOT EVEN HAVE PRICE ON THE AGENDA AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE A PRICE DISCUSSION IN THE ENERGY COMMISSION. HE MUST NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT AN OIL PRICE INCREASE IN OCTOBER COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE WORLD ECONOMY AND SLOW RECOVERY FROM RECESSION. HOWEVER, US DID NOT SEE RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE AS A MEANS OF INFLUENCING GOA ATTITUDES ON PRICE. THIS SHOULD BE BASED ON ALGERIA'S SENSITIVITY CONCERNING WORLD SITUATION.

12. ROBINSON SAID BASIC QUESTION RAISED BY ABDESSELAM WERE: 1) SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL 17 PARTICIPANTS, 2) QUESTIONS AS TO COMMISSIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS, AND 3) LINKAGE. SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL 17 REQUIRES ADDITIONAL 5 INDUSTRIALIZED AND 12 ADDITIONAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD SELECT ADDITIONAL 12 AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES SELECT THE ADDITIONAL 8. IF ALGERIA BELIEVED WE WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE CRITERIA, WE WERE READY TO CONCEDE AND COMPROMISE BY SIMPLY STATING THAT TOTAL OF 27 WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF FREE WORLD, I.E. DC'S AND LDC'S.

13. THREE COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE FIGURE OF 15 MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMISSIONS AS WELL. THESE FIGURES ARE A COMPROMISE. ORIGINALLY, SAUDI ARABIA WANTED 5 AND IRAN WANTED 12. WE FELT THAT FOR PROPER REPRESENTATION, IT SHOULD BE A MAXIMUM OF 15. IT WAS COMMON VIEW OF OTHERS THAT GROUP REMAIN RELATIVELY SMALL IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH COMPLEX ISSUES. THIS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHICH OF THE 27 WOULD BE IN THE COMMISSIONS. EACH MEMBER OF THE 27 SHOULD BE IN AT LEAST ONE COMMISSION AND SOME IN TWO OR THREE COMMISSIONS. ALGERIA, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD CLEARLY QUALIFY FOR ENERGY COMMISSION.

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ALL COUNTRIES WE HAVE TALKED TO AGREED THAT EACH COMMISSION SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF THE COUNTRIES MOST INTERESTED IN THAT PARTICULAR COMMISSION. THE SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS THUS WOULD BE MADE BY EACH GROUP. THERE WOULD BE NO AUTOMATIC SELECTION OR REFUSAL FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES FOR THE COMMISSIONS. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS PRINCIPLE AND WE HOPED ALGERIA WOULD ALSO AGREE.

14. THIRD QUESTION WAS LINKAGE. HERE WE RECOGNIZE

IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP AMONG COMMISSIONS
AND BETWEEN COMMISSIONS AND GROUP OF 27. IT WOULD NOT
DESTROY EFFECTIVENESS OF WHOLE PLAN TO HAVE THREE
SEPARATE COMMISSIONS. WE FELT STRONGLY THAT WE MUST

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AVOID TURNING MEETING OF 27 INTO A MINI-7., ALL OTHER
COUNTRIES WERE IN ACCORD WITH US IN THIS RESPECT. WE
WOULD PROVIDE FOR INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG
COMMISSIONS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE INTERIM REPORTS TO
CONFERENCE GROUP OF 27 AND AFTER 12 MONTHS AN OFFICIAL
REPROT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO GROUP. OUR INTENTION WAS
TO HAVE GROUP OF 27 RECEIVE PROGRESS REPORTS, INTEGRATE
PROGRESS OF THREE COMMISSIONS AND DETERMINE WHAT
FURTHER ACTION MIGHT BE NECESSARY. WE FELT IT WOULD
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING IN
LESS THAN 12 MONTHS. COMMISSIONS WOULD PROBABLY NEED
TWO TO THREE MONTHS TO GET ORGANIZED, LEAVING ONLY 9
MONTHS TO ACCOMPLISH REAL PROGRESS BEFORE SECOND
MINISTERIAL MEETING. TO PROCEED MORE QUICKLY THAN
THIS WOULD CAST DOUBTS ON OUR SINCERITY IN ACCOMPLISHING
OUR GOALS. WE NOW HAD AN UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL
COUNTRIES INVOLVED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS
ARRANGEMENT AND ROBINSON HAD COME TO ASK ABDESSELAM'S
SUPPORT AND HIS PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR PLAN. HE HAD
MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT BOUMDEIENE NECESSITY FOR COMPROMISE
TO ENSURE THAT DIALOGUE BEGAN AND HAD ASKED FOR PATIENCE
TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE SEEK IN THIS CRITICAL EFFORT.

15. ABDESSELAM RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WE NOW

HAD EVERYONE'S AGREEMENT EXCEPT ALGERIA. THIS PUT ALGERIAN IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. ROBINSON REPLIED HE HAD NOT INTENDED IT TO BE. ABDESSELAM CONTINUED THAT ALGERIA WAS OFTEN DEPICTED BY THE PRESS AS AN SECRET

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SPOILER. ALGERIA'S PRE-OCCUPATION WAS TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE ON A SOUND BASIS AND TO ALLOW THE DIALOGUE TO PROCEED AND ACHIEVE SOLID OBJECTIVES. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES WERE CRITERIA ON WHICH THE SELECTION OF THE 17 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES WOULD BE DETERMINED AND THE SELECTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN 3 COMMISSIONS. AT THE ROOT OF ALGERIA'S CONCERN WAS IDEA OF CRITERIA DETERMINED IN ADVANCE. AS FOR LINKAGE, IF AFTER 3 MONTHS THE COMMISSIONS WERE ORGANIZED AND READY TO BEGIN WORK, GOA STILL FELT THAT AN ADDITIONAL 9 MONTHS WAS A LONG PERIOD. IT WISHED THAT THIS 9 MONTH WORK PERIOD BE SHORTER. IF THINGS WENT SLOWLY IN THE COMMISSION OR ONE COMMISSION WENT FASTER THAN ANOTHER, THIS WOULD ALSO CREATE PROBLEMS. PERHAPS BY MEETING SOONER WE MIGHT SOLVE THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM.

16. ROBINSON REPLIED THAT HE WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT EACH COMMISSION WOULD WORK ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, WE MUST HAVE ACTIVE AND INVOLVED PARTICIPATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, PERIODIC MEETINGS AT LESS THAN THE 12 MONTH INTERVAL WOULD BE UNREALISTIC. IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT MATTER TO BE TREATED REQUIRED THIS TIME SPAN.

17. ABDESSELAM SAID TO THE CONTRARY, MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 27 AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL MORE OFTEN COULD ADVANCE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSIONS. IN FACT, HE DID NOT SEE OR UNDERSTAND ANY LINKAGE. IT WAS MYSTERIOUS.

18. UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON REPLIED THAT IT WAS A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PERMIT A CONTINUING LINKAGE IN 3 FORMS: 1) CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG THE COMMISSIONS (PROBABLY LOCATED IN GENEVA), 2) CONTINUING REPORTS BACK TO THE GROUP OF 27, AND 3) A FORMAL CONFERENCE AT THE END OF THE 27 MINISTERS TO CONSIDER PROGRESS AND TO DECIDE FURTHER ACTION. ABDESSELAM SAID HE FELT THAT A FOURTH LINKAGE WOULD RESULT AND WOULD PERHAPS BE THE MOST IMPORTANT. IT WAS THE "BACK ROOM" OR "CORRIDOR" LINKAGE. HE CONTINUED THAT IN GENERAL ALGERIA AGREES TO THE PLAN. HOWEVER, ALGERIA HAD RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SECRET

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17 ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE 12 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE SELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS, AND LINKAGE. ALGERIA IS CONCERNED THAT THE PREVAILING INTERESTS WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT TO A SATISFACTORY DEGREE INTERESTS OF ALGERIA AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ALGERIA IS A SMALL COUNTRY AND MUST PRESERVE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-INTEREST. IT WANTED TO MAKE A LARGER PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR NEW AND NEGLECTED COUNTRIES.

19. ROBINSON SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A PERSONAL APPEAL TO MINISTER. WE COULD NOT ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN ONE STEP, OVERNIGHT. WE MUST MOVE ON STEP-BY-STEP BASIS. THIS REQUIRED PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING. HE GAVE HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD MOVE FORWARD TO RECONCILE ALL POSITIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ALGERIA MUST UNDERSTAND THAT A FIRM CONFRONTATIONAL POSITION ON BEHALF OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING OUR POSITIONS.

20. ABDESSELAM REPLIED THAT ALGERIA WAS NOT A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT COUNTRY. THESE PROBLEMS REQUIRED TIME. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO START NEGOTIATIONS AND MOVE AWAY FROM THE DIALOGUE OF DEAF. AS FOR INTRANSIGENCE, ALGERIANS THOUGHT DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BOTH GUILTY AND WE NEEDED A MUTUAL EFFORT. HOWEVER, A GREATER EFFORT WAS REQUIRED IN THIS DIRECTION ON BEHALF OF THE PRESENT HOLDERS OF ECONOMIC POWER.
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